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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 108

Santa Monica Daily Press



PROTECT YOUR INFO
SEE PAGE 6

We have you covered

THE TIME FOR SOFTBALL ISSUE



WINNING TIME

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Downey's Debra Lovell tries to elude the tag of Santa Monica's Arielle Casilas on Tuesday at Samohi. The Vikings won, 3-2.

Mayoral appointment delayed until May

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The City Council has a full roster of seven members again, but still no mayor since the death of Ken Genser in January.

The council last month appointed Terry O'Day to fill Genser's seat, but the body will have to elect a new figurehead to chair meetings and become the face of the city.

And with council members planning to miss meetings in March and April, Mayor Pro Tem Pam O'Connor said the panel won't be able to select a new mayor until May 11 at the earliest. She had hoped the council could appoint a new mayor at its first meeting in April.

In recent months O'Connor has acted as the council's chair and agenda setter.

The position of mayor in Santa Monica is almost entirely ceremonial, with no real

SEE MAYOR PAGE 9

Parking in short supply for marathon

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The 25,000 participants in the L.A. Marathon this year will be crossing the finish line on Ocean Avenue in Downtown Santa Monica — attracting a flood of spectators that City Hall officials said pose a range of logistical challenges but will give a boost to local businesses.

With the race set for this Sunday, City Hall officials are expecting the marathon to draw thousands of onlookers to the final stretch of the 26.2 mile route, which goes along San Vicente Avenue in Santa Monica before turning south on Ocean Avenue to the finish line at Santa Monica Boulevard.

The eastbound portion of San Vicente and all lanes of Ocean Avenue between San Vicente and Colorado Avenue will be closed to traffic during the race. The streets will re-open to traffic after the majority of race participants have passed through sometime in the late afternoon.

The marathon's new "Stadium to the Sea" route marks the first time the race has come to town.

With plenty of experience hosting big events like the Santa Monica Pier centennial celebration and GLOW — not to mention crowded summer beach days — City Hall officials said they're prepared for the crush of visitors.

The business community could stand to benefit the most.

Misti Kerns, president and CEO of the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, said the marathon will bring an influx of customers to local businesses, hotels, restaurants and retailers.

"The new 'Stadium to the Sea' course has attracted many runners from near and far including runners from our top two markets, the United Kingdom and Australia as well as many other countries," she said in a news release.

With the tourist dollars come the twin headaches of scarce parking and congested roads.

SEE MARATHON PAGE 8

Magnitude-4.4 earthquake rattles Southern California

ALICIA CHANG & JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press Writers

LOS ANGELES An earthquake east of downtown Los Angeles rippled across Southern California before dawn Tuesday, jolting millions of people awake and putting first-responders on alert.

There are no reports of damage, injuries or power outages linked to the temblor.

"All is calm in the city of Los Angeles," Los Angeles Fire Department Capt. Steve Ruda said.

Nearly an hour after the quake, the California Highway Patrol got reports of a buckled 10-foot stretch of concrete in a center lane of southbound Interstate 5 south of downtown in the Downey area.

CHP Officer Daniel Asleson said later the quake probably didn't cause the buckling. Damage was reported a day earlier in the lane, which is heavily used by big-rigs.

California Department of Transportation crews temporarily patched the area again

SEE QUAKE PAGE 8


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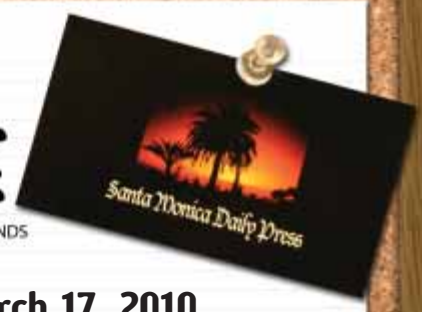
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Get abstract
PAINT:LAB
2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Samantha Ahdoot has been captivated and immersed in the arts from a very early age. Her diverse cultural background and love for the arts has contributed immensely to her unique style and visual language, as a fine artist and as a designer. Encompassing traditional with cutting edge, her approach to color and form reflect her skills and influences throughout her life, expanding and always contributing to her extensive resume of accomplishments. Beginners welcome, maximum eight students per workshop. Reservations required. Cost: $40. For more information call (310) 450-9200.

Celebrate the Saint
O'Brien's Irish Pub
2226 Wilshire Blvd., 8 a.m. to close
Huge St. Patrick's Day celebration featuring authentic Irish food and drinks. For more information, contact William O'Sullivan at (310) 829-5303.

Drilling off shore
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Join Surfrider Foundation and Environment California staff, activists, members, and volunteers from around California as they discuss the threats associated with drilling, and educate the public on why an increase in offshore drilling is not the answer. For more information, contact Stefanie Sekkich at (619) 807-0551.

Confess
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
An outrageous St. Patrick's Day antidote to Riverdance, the uproarious one-woman comedy that asks what it means to be Irish, what it means if you don't want to be, and what if you're labeled an Irish wannabe? Admission: $17. For more information call (310) 394-9779 ext. 1.

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Jewish speed dating
The Hideout
112 W. Channel Road, 8 p.m.
Single and Jewish in Santa Monica? Finding romance and a relationship can be quite a challenge these days because the fast and hectic lifestyle that runs the modern world. Speed dating expedites the process of finding compatible singles and a relationship without having to waste huge amounts of time and money. Recommended check-in time is 7:30 p.m., and online RSVP is required to reserve your spot. This is for Jewish women from 21 to 29 years old and Jewish men from 24 to 32 years old. RSVP at hurrydate.com, where you can also find similar events on other nights.

'Wall Works: Pocket Icon' with artist Anna Sew-Hoy
Bergamont Station Art Center's G-Building hallway
2525 Michigan Ave., 6 p.m.
"Pocket Icon" is a collaborative youth education project conceived by artist Anna Sew-Hoy. Sew-Hoy is a sculptor who uses such diverse materials as clay, found objects, and textiles. For "Wall Works: Pocket Icon" K-12 students wrote down their wishes and created pocket-sized, iconic talismans out of polymer clay. Each object serves as a lucky charm through which the students wishes can come true. All icons and written wishes will be on view here until May 31, 2010. For more information, call (310) 586-6488.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PICO BOULEVARD

Don't drink and drive

St. Patrick's Day revelers better find a designated driver because the Santa Monica Police Department will be out in force looking for drunks who get behind the wheel.

Officers will stage a sobriety checkpoint tonight in the 300 block of Pico Boulevard. Officers will be randomly contacting drivers to see if they've been drinking and if they have a valid driver's license. This is the first of several checkpoints to be conducted over the next 12 months.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The SMPD reminds drivers if you plan on drinking, have a designated driver or call a taxi cab to take you safely home.

Since 2005, the number of alcohol involved fatalities has been dropping, but law enforcement and the public must continue to work toward zero deaths, police said.

"Law enforcement officers are doing more to remove drunk drivers from California's streets and highways thanks to our DUI traffic safety funding," said Christopher J. Murphy, director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. "But everyone can help make their communities safer; if you see a drunk driver – call 911."

For more information, contact Sgt. Jeff Wiles with the Traffic Division at (310) 458-8950, or the department's public information officer, Sgt. Jay Trisler at (310) 458-8471.

DAILY PRESS

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In the spirit

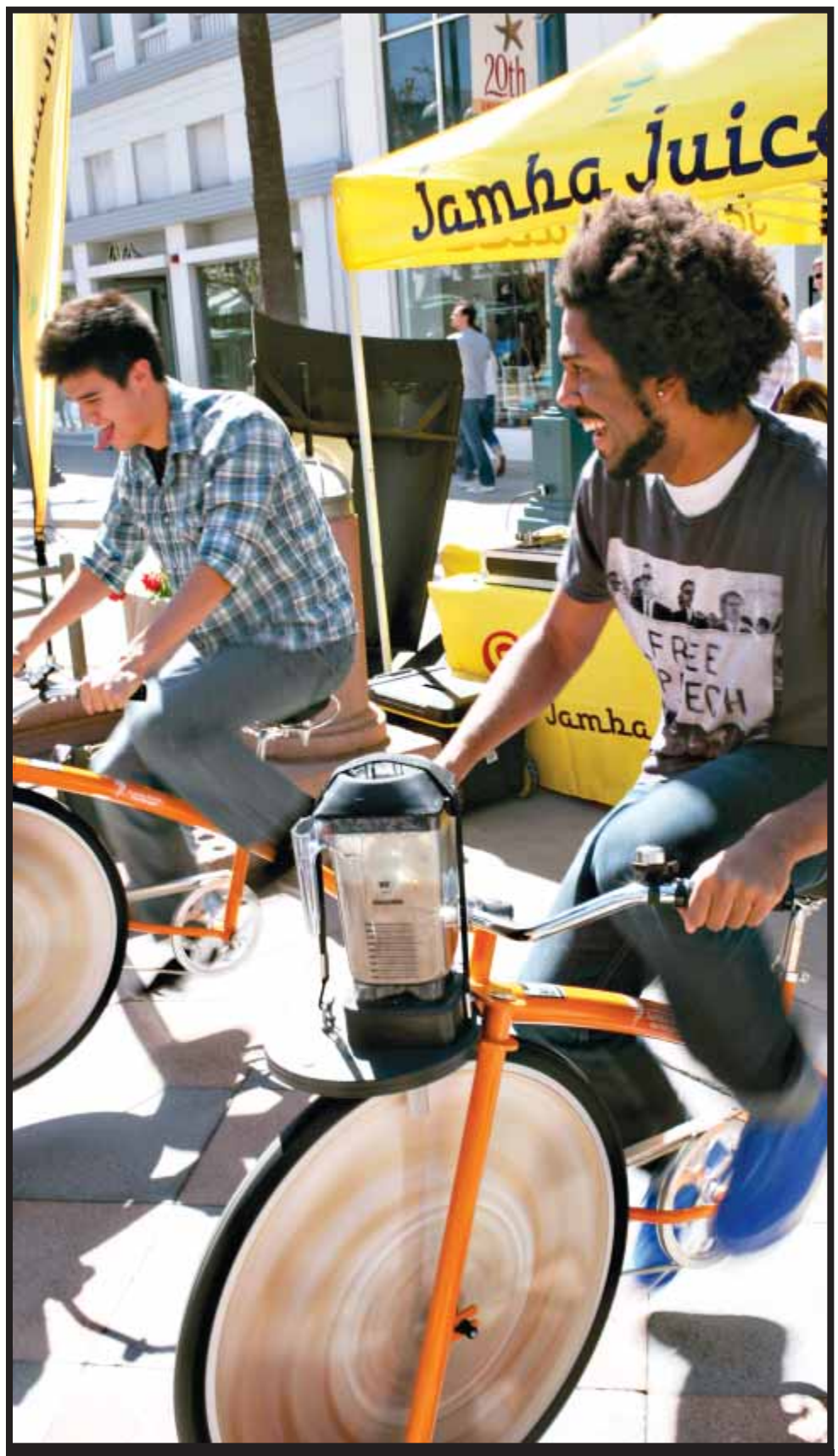
The world-famous Ferris wheel at Pacific Park will treat visitors to a high-tech light show featuring a custom, evening-long display of St. Patrick's Day colors and patterns in celebration of the lucky leprechaun holiday.

The Ferris wheel is outfitted with 160,000 LED lights that are operated by a computer.

Those who cannot make it down to the Santa Monica Pier can check out the light show by going online to www.pacpark.com and clicking on the "view our live cam" tab.

DP

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Santa Monica Daily Press



JUICED

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Zak Cheney-Rice (right) and Thomas Kotcheff ride the Jamba Juice blender bikes during the Hot Blends Spin Tour at the Third Street Promenade on Tuesday afternoon. The six city multi-week tour is being used to promote Jamba Juice's Spiced Chai Tea Lattes and other organic hot blended beverages.

County courts cut more than 300 jobs

BY LISA ANDERSON
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN L.A. The presiding judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court announced Tuesday the layoffs of 330 employees, along with plans to shutter courtrooms to help cope with a $79 million budget shortfall.

The cutbacks are expected to be the first wave, with more job cuts and courtroom closures anticipated in six months.

In Santa Monica, a family courtroom has been closed for about five months, Santa Monica Presiding Judge Gerald Rosenberg said.

West Los Angeles also experienced a civil courtroom closure months ago, and Malibu's civil courtroom closure has yet to occur, but is scheduled for early April. The courtrooms are not expected to be reopened.

"That brings a lot of havoc to the parties," said Rosenberg of the Santa Monica closure. Families now have to travel an extra 20 to 30 miles, Rosenberg added.

Parachini said there is still another family courtroom open in Santa Monica, but it is not uncommon for Santa Monica residents to file in Downtown L.A.

Some courthouses could be closed also.

"It's going to take a miracle to prevent courthouse closures, not to say that miracles don't happen," Parachini said.

The 329 layoffs are in addition to 156 voluntary departures through attrition that are projected during the 2009 to 2010 fiscal year. In June, a total of 485 jobs will be eliminated and as many as 500 layoffs are anticipated by September.

Employees who have been laid off are primarily comprised of clerical assistants, court services assistants, and judicial assistants.

"Our court's deficit is $79.3 million in Fiscal Year 2009 to 2010, and we have few means of achieving substantial savings other than staff reductions," said Presiding Judge Charles W. "Tim" McCoy Jr.

"We have explored every financial scenario before taking this action, but more

SEE COURTS PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A brief history of public transit

Editor:

David Alsabery's column "Santa Monica needs a monorail" (Hiding in the Open, March 10, 2010) has a historical precedent. Joe Fawkes, a Burbank rancher, built a functioning monorail on his Burbank ranch before World War I. He offered to provide Santa Monica with his "Aerial Trolley Car," but his proposal was rejected by the City Council when agreement could not be reached over control of the system's right-of-way. Through the years The [Los Angeles] Times and other newspapers have run articles and pictures of Fawkes' monorail, but none, as far as I know, ever chronicled Fawkes' dealings with the Santa Monica City Council. The Burbank Review and The Times ran stories when the proposal was made, considered, and rejected. I came across that tale in 1960 while researching a brief history that the city of Burbank commissioned me to write.

Sadder than Santa Monica's rejection of the monorail is the loss of the Pacific Electric streetcars the city welcomed in place of Fawkes' aerial system. The same type of streetcars are running today in post-Katrina New Orleans.

The streetcar, with its cow-catcher bumpers fore and aft, cruised on rail lines down the middle of many Southern California streets, reducing the traffic that surrounded them. The tracks served as a traffic tamer because many motorists were afraid to speed for fear their tires would slide on the tracks. Motorists also quickly made way for clanging streetcars that loomed up behind them.

Two sets of streetcar tracks ran down the middle of busy Hollywood Boulevard and then merged onto Sunset Boulevard to carry riders past Aimee's Temple and into the short tunnel that ended in the Subway Terminal Building in the center of Downtown L.A. The rails had private right of ways in some places, but in most business districts they ran down the middle of the street without any problems.

The electric streetcars created no smog. They were cheap to run and to ride. They carried riders to all the major L.A. area destinations. They stopped running when General Motors bought Pacific Electric, declared the streetcars obsolete, and for a short time replaced them with awkward electric buses.

When the streetcars stopped running, L.A., by necessity, became a region of two-car families. We suddenly were being told again and again how we loved the privacy of car travel. Public transportation was for the poor. Cars symbolized our status in life.

Now we are spending a fortune trying to bring an electric rail line from L.A. to the Westside communities. Many think it will reduce our traffic problems, although it has no specific destination anyone seems to be seeking except Downtown L.A. It will draw masses of commuters from the huge residential developments south of Santa Monica. Already the rail stops in Santa Monica are expected to sprawl out as prosperous commercial centers.

Imagine how successful streetcar lines could be on Lincoln Boulevard and down Wilshire and Pico boulevards. Both shoppers and commuters would be served.

And the old idea of running monorail lines along the existing freeway routes still seems like a more financially practical solution to downtown commuter needs.

As David Alsabery pointed out in his column, no one seems to care to make mass transit profitable. They just like to profit from the projects that can be constructed to meet the need.

If you doubt public mass transit can be profitable, visit the Huntington Library and Museum in San Marino. The art collection, the fabulous library, and the majestic home that houses those treasures all belonged to the man who built and ran the Pacific Electric Railway.

Charles Donaldson
Santa Monica

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em

UNTIL RECENTLY, I WAS AMBIVALENT about becoming active within Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, the city's leading political party. On the one hand, it's highly unlikely that I, as one of 4,000 members, would be able to have much of an impact on the vision and direction of the organization from the inside. On the other hand, there is no other option if I, as a Santa Monican, want to have a say in how my city is governed because SMRR is the only political game in town, controlling the City Council, Rent Control Board, school district and Santa Monica College.

But the arrival of the 2010 Census (the "$14 billion form" as my friend Nina Sinclaire calls it) got me thinking about this situation a little differently. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 50,000 out of the roughly 55,000 adults over the age of 34 living in Santa Monica either stayed in our homes last year or didn't move very far away. So out of the 50,000 adults in this town who could be called "permanent locals," only 8 percent of us are SMRR members. And if 8 percent of the permanent local adults in Santa Monica can decide what's best for the other 92 percent, then that same math should apply within SMRR.

Even though Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights has been around for decades and has become the establishment in local politics, it's important to remember the organization's insurgent history. It was founded in the 1978 during the Los Angeles real estate boom to protect the interests of Santa Monicans who rent their homes (around 70 percent of us) from developers who saw the potential in the 90-plus percent occupancy rate of the city's 40,000-plus rental units. SMRR's Web site states that those developers were held off with some of the strongest rent control laws in the country and a 1981 moratorium on commercial development followed by another in 1989. The site also demonstrates a striking shortage of black or brown faces within SMRR's elected leadership and, as best I can tell, hasn't been updated in quite some time.

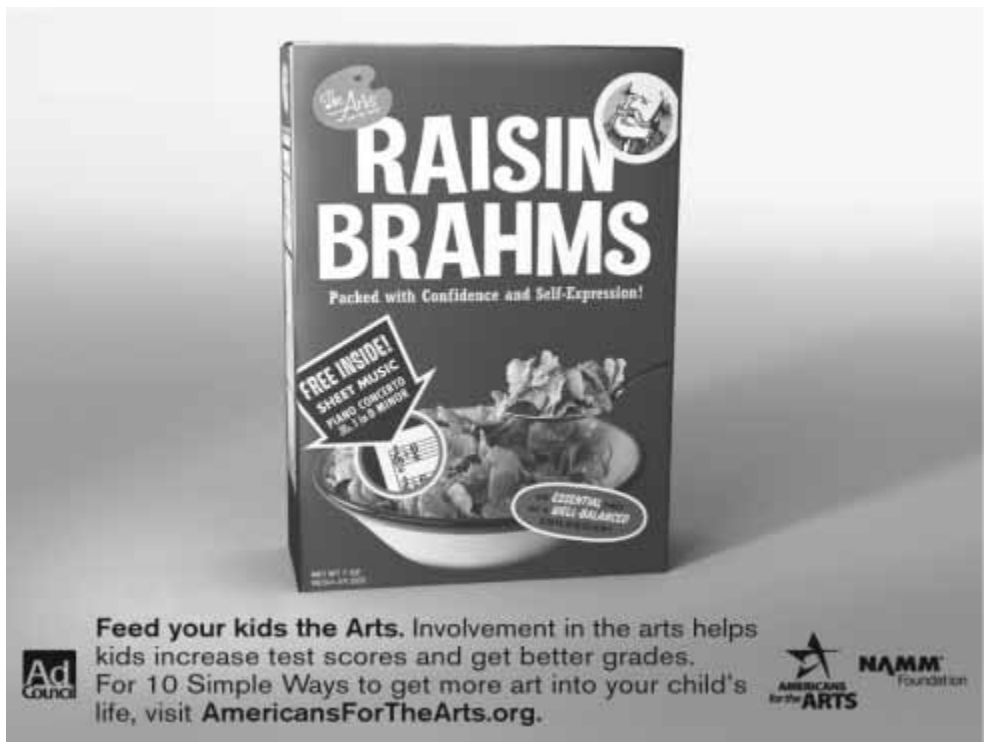
SMRR has come to dominate city politics, but it's coming to a critical junction in this November's elections when its City Council majority could be threatened if the organization doesn't come up with a clear, coherent vision for Santa Monica's future. I appreciate what rent control does for those of us lucky enough to live in below-market-rate apartments and I like Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights' formerly-tough stance against development. But about a quarter of our city's population is between 14 and 25 years old, so they don't care about past accomplishments and they (and their parents) have the right to wonder what SMRR has done for them lately.

Personally, I think it's about time to light the candle of openness and democracy as opposed to continuing to curse SMRR's darkness. We have a situation where a political party whose total membership equals about 8 percent of our city's population has a seriously exaggerated influence on the vision, direction, and budget of Santa Monica. Since that's the case, then a caucus within that party whose membership is — let's say 15 percent — should be able to exert at least some influence on the vision, direction, and budget of SMRR.

So I'm looking for 600 Santa Monicans to join with me to create the New Energy Caucus within Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights. We'll put our heads together and come up with a platform or a signature issue around which to organize and campaign, then all 600 of us will join SMRR together at the same time and challenge the organization to tell us why our interests can't or won't be addressed. And if a caucus that represents 15 percent of its membership doesn't move SMRR to action, then we'll try 20 percent, then 25 percent, then 30 percent until we win. That's how progressives fight and that's how progress is made.

I'm no longer ambivalent about getting involved with this organization because I realized that the problem with changing Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights isn't that I, alone, wouldn't be able to do it; it's that I shouldn't try to do it alone.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who wants you to join him and his favorite reader, Marilyn Brennan, in the New Energy Caucus by sending an e-mail to newenergycaucus@gmail.com. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.



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Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Too big to fail

Editor's note: This is the second installment of a two-part series.

IN MY LAST INSTALLMENT I TOUCHED THE titular notion of California's agricultural dilemma vis-à-vis "too big to fail" and how our small farmers are being run out of business by the garden variety enviro-nitwits to protect a bait fish in the Sacramento river called the delta smelt. There's a lactose intolerant eco-fart joke in there somewhere since whoever "smelt" it, "delta" it. Just ask any post-consumer wasted hippie snorting free-range granola from the dashboard of his algae-powered Prius.

Apparently the delta smelt's rescue from epochal oblivion comes first before providing employment to people who grow our food as the cargo cult of global warming wingnuts have deemed that a 2-inch long Darwin-challenged bait fish is somehow more important in their phantasmagorical notion of planetary sustainability

Welcome to Al Gore's eco-hell.

So who financially benefits to put farm workers into food lines, which "green" industry will displace agriculture and what's the depth of racism within the cargo cultists of the environmental movement?

Folks, the environmental movement is a racist swindle bordering on the RICO act. That they are also invariably festered with progressive liberal-minded social Democrats is without argument. Is it an inconvenient truth that Democrats have the most ardent history of racism in the history of the U.S. as the predominant slave owners as well as the largest voting block against the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with all the Jim Crow you'd want to eat in between? Is it doubly inconvenient that most white liberal Democrats always seem to allegedly know at least two black or Hispanic people in order to trot out their non-racist bona fides? Sorry, but your housekeeper or gardener doesn't count.

Closeted racists are also heavily mired within the organic swamplands of the environmental movement as well. Google up the websites for the NRDC, WWF, Greenpeace, Surfrider Foundation or New American Way. Peruse their board of directors and staff officers. How many African Americans do you see? Hispanics? Asians? On the governing boards of these allegedly politically-correct organizations you'd be lucky to find a brown person making free-trade coffee. The only place you'd see more vanilla is at a KKK meeting. If I were an enterprising person of color, I'd have an ACLU suit in thermonuclear race discrimination mode-Alpha against any one of these chauvinistic rackets faster than you could say, "Ed Begley, Jr."

Look on TV. Name the most qualified environmentalist who isn't white.

White people want to "save the planet" while the brown people that grow their food are now standing in line at food banks in the richest agricultural region in the world. If that isn't racism, it's pretty damn close. If the San Joaquin Valley is destined to be the 21st century Obamanian reinvention of FDR's dust bowl, I hope all you yuppie puppies don't mind paying for $10 tomatoes at the Sunday Ocean Park Farmers' Market.

So who benefits from this agricultural inequity bequeathed to us from the bloviate beneficence of the boneheads from the Temple of Enviro-Correctness?

Investors in solar power farms are making inroads throughout California. When an agricultural farm becomes unproductive the natural tendency is to sell that farm. As we move into the "green energy" agenda as prostituted from Washington, California's sunny farmland becomes prime real estate for this investment opportunity. Think about it, folks. Al Gore has made over $500 million in the last eight years as an "energy investor" and is perforce to continue the mythology of global warming to keep the scam going and his pockets lined with economic sunshine.

So how do we go from a tomato farm to a solar farm? Shut off the water.

I've seen this before. I was raised in Orange County in the 1960-70s near South Coast Plaza. I remember when there was no South Coast Plaza and there was nothing but farmland and orchards in every direction. I'd wake up in the morning and smell orange blossoms everywhere.

Then South Coast Plaza came and within 20 years the entire area had become one giant high-end strip mall without a strawberry field in sight. The San Joaquin Valley is next folks. Unless you say something about it to our mayor, local Congress-critters, senators and the Avatar-in-Chief, who have thus far ignored the plight of decent hard-working farmers, Santa Monica's Farmers' Markets are going to wilt on the vine. Tomatoes are one of the most important crops in our diet and most of them come from the Central Valley. We eat them raw, in salsa, spaghetti sauce and catsup just to name a few.

Do you want farms for tomatoes or solar farms to generate power for your iPod? I'll take the tomato. After all, you can't eat electricity.

STEVE BREEN says "Turn on the water, Mr. President!" and is still "the best looking mailman in the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

The big race

For the first time in its history, the Honda LA Marathon presented by K-Swiss will end in Santa Monica. The race takes place Sunday, March 21.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Will you be out cheering on the masses of runners or will you be upset by the road closures the event creates?

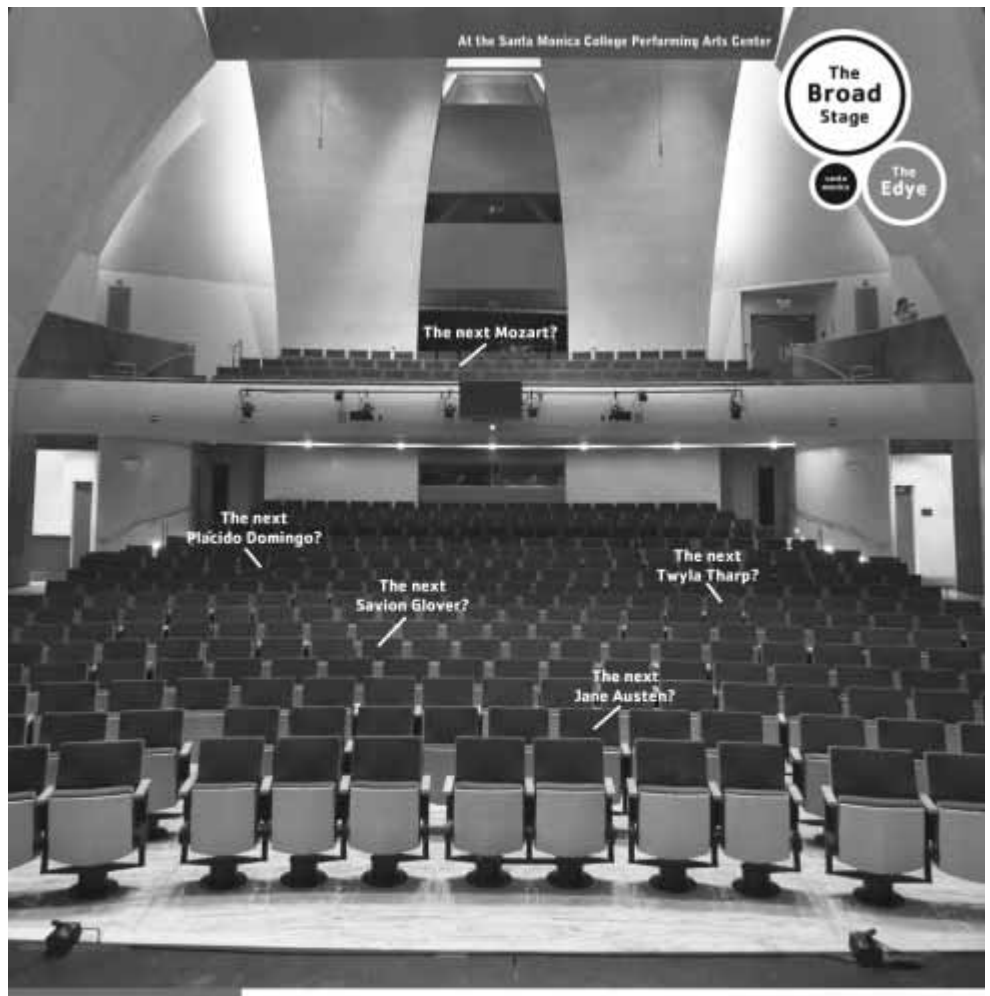
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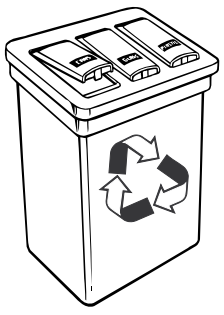
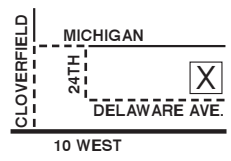


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Housing construction drops 5.9% in February

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Housing construction fell in February as winter blizzards held down activity in the Northeast and South. The decline highlighted the challenges facing builders as they struggle to emerge from the worst housing slump in decades.

The Commerce Department said Tuesday that construction of new homes and apartments fell 5.9 percent in February to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 575,000 units, slightly higher than the 570,000 that economists were expecting. January activity was revised up to a pace of 622,000 units, the strongest showing in 14 months.

Economists characterized the February dip as weather-related although they said any housing rebound this year is likely to be modest at best given a variety of headwinds from record home foreclosures to high unemployment.

"It's tough when you have massive rain and snow storms over a large part of the nation to get much construction activity," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors. "I am expecting housing to be a modest addition to economic growth for the rest of the year."

The February weakness reflected a modest 0.6 percent drop in single-family construction, which declined to 499,000 units. The more volatile multi-family sector plunged 30.3 percent to an annual rate of 76,000 units after having surged 18.5 percent in January.

Activity dropped by 9.6 percent in the Northeast and 15.5 percent in the South, two regions hit by snowstorms in February. Building rose by 10.6 percent in the Midwest and 7.9 percent in the West.

Building permits, considered a good barometer of future activity, fell 1.6 percent to an annual rate of 612,000 units after having fallen a larger 4.7 percent in January.

Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics, said the February weakness stemmed from severe winter weather which prevented builders from breaking ground on new projects. But he said the housing outlook remains bleak because of a huge glut of unsold homes, reflecting the weakness in sales and the continued crisis with home foreclosures.

He said that in addition to 3.8 million homes for sale currently, foreclosures could dump another 5 million to 6 million homes on the market.

"Some of this excess may be reduced by a surge in sales ahead of the end of the tax credit, but the bulk is going to take a very long time to work off," Dales said in a research note.

To qualify for a government tax credit, buyers must sign the purchase contract by the end of April.

Economists said that any spurt in sales will likely be temporary and the rebound in housing this year will be slow.

Hack-proof your personal info this looming tax season

ERIN CONROY
Associated Press Business Writer

TAX HACKERS: Whether you're filing your tax return electronically, downloading forms or e-mailing your accountant, identity thieves are ready to pounce on any social security numbers, addresses and bank account numbers you may unknowingly divulge.

While tax preparation software such as Intuit Inc.'s TurboTax is safe to use, files stored on your computer are still vulnerable to hackers.

"People don't realize that they accidentally expose such sensitive information," said Todd Feinman, chief executive of New York-based computer security firm Identity Finder LLC. "Maybe it's a file on your desktop called 'tax form' that someone could find through peer-to-peer music or file sharing, or a downloaded virus that does nothing but search for those specific types of documents."

Feinman offers these tips for keeping your information secure during the tax season:

• Password-protect all tax returns that you print to PDF from your tax software so that social security numbers and financial information are protected.

• Configure all peer-to-peer file sharing programs to disable the sharing of your personal folders.

• Never e-mail forms with your social security number, or even files used to prepare tax returns if they already contain personal information. If you need to send forms to your accountant, leave your social security number out to be written in just before sending the form to the IRS.

• Delete e-mails purporting to be from the IRS that require personal information to process a return, rebate, or refund. The IRS will not contact you by e-mail, so this would likely be a phishing attack.

• Install the latest updates to your operating system so known Windows or Mac vulnerabilities can't be exploited by hackers.

• Any financial documents containing personal information that were used to prepare tax returns should be permanently deleted from your computer or encrypted with a password.

• Don't save passwords in Web browsers when accessing banks and other institutions, as they can be stolen if you ever get a virus, Trojan, or are hacked.

GROCERY HOPPING: If you're struggling to make ends meet, re-evaluating your grocery bill and making small changes in shopping habits can help shave your overall spending and family budget.

"Reducing your weekly grocery bill by just $25 will add an additional $100 a month that can be used to pay down debt or add to a savings account," said Mechel Glass, director of education for Atlanta-based Consumer Credit Counseling Service.

CCCS gives this advice for cutting back before you get to the checkout aisle:

• Eat before you shop. Shopping on an empty stomach will always cost you more at the store.

• Look around. Many low-cost items, including store brands, are stocked on higher and lower shelves, while higher-priced items are at eye level.

Fed holds rates at record lows to foster recovery

JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The Federal Reserve on Tuesday repeated its pledge to hold interest rates at record lows to foster the economic recovery and ease high unemployment.

But the Fed's assessment of the economy was a bit more upbeat. It said the job market is stabilizing. That was an improvement from its January statement, when it said the deterioration in the labor market was abating.

It also said business spending on equipment and software has risen significantly, also an upgrade from its last assessment. Still, the Fed cautioned that spending by consumers could be dampened by high unemployment, sluggish wage growth, lower wealth and tight credit. And it noted weakness in the commercial real-estate and home-building markets.

"The Fed painted the economy in a slightly brighter shade," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group. "It's been painted black for so long. Now, it is a lighter shade of gray."

The Fed held its target range for its bank lending rate at zero to 0.25 percent, where it's been since December 2008. In response, commercial banks' prime lending rate, used to peg rates on certain credit cards and consumer loans, has remained about 3.25 percent — its lowest in decades.

Super-low rates benefit borrowers who qualify for loans and are willing to take on more debt. But they hurt savers. Low rates are especially hard on people living on fixed incomes who are earning scant returns on their savings.

The Fed's pledge to keep record-low rates for an "extended period" relieved investors. The Dow Jones industrial average finished the day up about 43 points. Before the announcement, it had posted a gain in the single digits.

Prices for Treasurys rose slightly. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury fell to 3.66 percent from 3.68 percent just before the announcement.

The Fed made no changes to a program to drive down mortgage rates and bolster the housing market, even as a government report Tuesday showed housing construction tumbling in February.

Under that program, the Fed is scheduled to end purchases of $1.25 trillion worth of mortgage-securities from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac at the end of this month. Some analysts fear that once the program ends, mortgage rates could rise. That could weaken the recovery in housing and the overall economy. The Fed has left the door open to extending the program if the economy weakens.

Hoffman thinks 30-year fixed mortgage rates, hovering around 5 percent, could rise to around 5.25 percent to 5.5 percent after the Fed program ends. That increase also would reflect stronger demand for mortgages as people rush to take advantage of a homebuyer tax credit that expires at the end of April.

The average rate on 30-year fixed mortgages dipped to 4.95 percent last week, from 4.97 percent a week earlier, according to mortgage finance company Freddie Mac.

The Fed's decision to keep record-low rates for an "extended period" — thought to mean six more months — again drew one dissent. Thomas Hoenig, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, for a second straight meeting opposed keeping the yearlong pledge.

Hoenig's dissent illustrates the Fed's challenge in deciding when to signal that higher rates are coming. Hoenig thinks the economy is strong enough for the Fed to telegraph that rates will rise soon to prevent inflation. But Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and other colleagues think the low rates will continue to be needed to feed the economic recovery.

The Fed said the pace of the recovery will likely remain moderate. That means inflation is expected to stay in check, giving the Fed leeway to maintain record-low rates without triggering higher prices. The Fed wants to see job growth and lower unemployment before it considers a rate increase, analysts said.

The recession wiped out 8.4 million jobs. With companies still wary of ramping up hiring, the unemployment rate — now at 9.7 percent — is likely to stay high. Even though the jobless rate hasn't budged for two months and companies aren't cutting as many jobs as they did a year ago, hiring is tepid.

"The Fed is holding out for clearer signs of improvements in the labor market," said Anthony Chan, chief economist at JP Morgan's Private Wealth Management. "Until then, the Fed feels it needs the insurance policy of keeping rates low."

Once the recovery is more entrenched, the Fed will need to signal that higher rates will be coming.

To do that, the Fed could drop its commitment to keep rates at record lows for an "extended period." Or it could pledge to keep rates low only for "some time" or vow to keep "policy accommodative." Or it could change its language in some other way to stress that credit will be tightened when the time is right.

Any such step would signal that the days of easy money are fading.

Hoenig has been pushing to change the signal. At the Fed's last meeting in late January, Hoenig favored saying rates would stay low for "some time." He thought that would give the Fed more flexibility to start raising rates.

Hoffman and some others say they don't think the Fed will signal a change toward higher rates until early summer, with a rate increase to follow in the fall. Chan doesn't think the Fed will boost rates until next year.

David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York, thinks the Fed will need to see the jobs crisis ease before it increases rates.

"The earliest that they will raise rates will be six months from now, and they could hold off for another year," Wyss said

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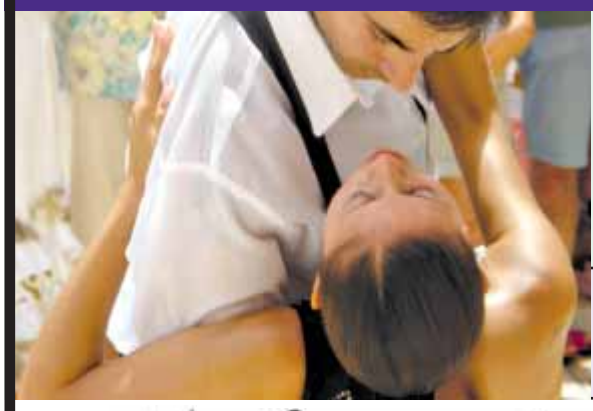
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Race set for this weekend

FROM **MARATHON** PAGE 1

With only about 12,000 City Hall-owned parking spaces and 2,000 private spaces available in Downtown Santa Monica, parking on race day is expected to be extremely challenging. Several thousand spaces will be taken up by racers themselves, who will park their cars at the finish line between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Sunday, taking shuttles to the starting point at Dodger Stadium.

Accordingly, City Hall is asking residents to avoid using their cars Sunday if they plan to come Downtown to witness the race and the Finish Line Beach Party, which will take place in a parking lot next to the pier.

"The city of Santa Monica encourages you to walk, bike or take public transportation to view the race," an official release said.

Free bike valet will be available at two Downtown locations, and the Big Blue Bus is maintaining its schedule as close to normal as possible. The Tide Ride, though, will be out of service for the day. Santa Monica's radio station, KRSM 1680AM, and CityTV channel 16 will be providing updated traffic and parking information.

Most of the participants in the race are expected to reach the finish line between about 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m., when officials said they expect crowds to the largest.

In recent weeks City Hall officials have been meeting with neighborhood groups to discuss plans for the race and to get the word out about street closures.

Neighborhood leaders said they were pleased with plans and were looking forward to the race.

> **IF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED, WE HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT SO MUCH."**
>
> **Elizabeth Riel,**
> North of Montana Association board member

Jeanne Dodson, who chairs the neighborhood council, a coalition of community groups, said concern about potential inconveniences because of the race has been muted.

"Everybody thinks it might be a positive impact on our community with hopefully minimal disruption," she said.

Elizabeth Riel, a board member of the North of Montana Association, which represents the neighborhood most affected by the route, also said residents mostly see the race as a welcome event.

"If people have been concerned, we haven't heard about it so much," she said, adding, "You should check in with me after the marathon."

In approving the race this year the City Council gave no guarantees about the future. At its meeting March 23 City Hall officials will give the council a report on the race and its impacts.

nickt@smdp.com

Earthquake felt in Santa Monica

FROM **QUAKE** PAGE 1

early Tuesday and the lane reopened an hour later. Work on a permanent fix begins Tuesday night.

"The earthquake probably did contribute to it, a little bit, but ... it's normal wear and tear," Asleson said.

The magnitude-4.4 quake, centered about 10 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, struck shortly after 4 a.m., according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

"It was a shake, but not bad. Our inmates slept through it and we had a few calls, but not as many as you would think," Pico Rivera sheriff's station Sgt. Jacqueline Sanchez said.

Deputies were immediately dispatched to make "critical facility checks — bridges and dams, stuff like that," the sergeant said.

Though the quake was considered small in size, it was felt over a large swath of Southern California.

People from San Bernardino County to the east and Santa Monica to the west reported feeling the quake.

"The building started shaking. That's it. I'm used to it," downtown security guard Ruben Solis, 25, said from his booth in the high-rise district. Solis said he checked his monitors and no alarms were triggered. "I got up and went on patrol."

But fellow security guard Nonie Bailey, 55, was on the fourth floor and headed quickly for the ground level.

"It shook real hard. I thought the building was coming down. I was on the fourth floor and I got down to the ground," Bailey said.

Los Angeles County Fire Department supervising dispatcher Andre Gougis said there are no reports of damage or injury and the department is at normal operations.

"All our battalions reported a Level 1, meaning they felt it but there was no damage," Gougis said. He said the quake was felt at his east Los Angeles headquarters.

"There was an initial jolt, then mild shaking after that," he said.

The quake hit not far from the 1987 Whittier Narrows earthquake, a magnitude 5.9 quake that killed eight people and caused more than $350 million in damage.

The latest jolt is too small to inflict the same damage.

"I'm sure people would have felt it, but this is not an earthquake that will be damaging," said USGS geophysicist Amy Vaughan.

Tuesday's early morning jolt was probably not related to the Whittier Narrows quake because too much time has elapsed, said California Institute of Technology seismologist Kate Hutton.

Scientists have not yet determined which fault was responsible for the latest quake.

Hutton said there's a small chance that Tuesday's temblor is a precursor to a larger event, but the likelihood diminishes over time.

On the Net:
Caltech shake movie: http://shakemovie.caltech.edu

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ROAD WORK

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

With city tax dollars hard at work, a crew from All American Asphalt lays down concrete on Broadway between 24th Street and Park Drive on Tuesday morning. Contracted by City Hall, the crew is scheduled to begin work on Santa Monica Boulevard within the next few months.

Mayor appointment postponed

FROM **MAYOR** PAGE 1

power to back up the title.

But the role does have its perks.

The mayor makes more money than the rest of the council members — $15,329 per year compared with $12,774 — and gets to preside over meetings.

"For the most part the mayor is the one that everybody [asks] to attend events and speak," said Esterlina Lugo, deputy city clerk.

The City Council typically re-organizes annually, with election-year shuffles usually taking place shortly after votes are counted and new members are sworn in.

Whomever is selected in May could have a short stint as mayor, as five council seats are up for election in November.

"For the most part the mayor is the one that everybody [asks] to attend events and speak," said Esterlina Lugo, deputy city clerk.

Council members will vote on who should be the next mayor during a public meeting, with a majority vote required to make an appointment.

Among members of the council O'Connor, Bob Holbrook and Richard Bloom each have served as mayor.

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Up to 1,800 layoffs over next four years

FROM **COURTS** PAGE 3

than 80 percent of our budget goes to salaries and benefits, which forces [these] drastic measures," said McCoy.

The court made $16 million in non-staff cuts and is using reserves to minimize staffing reductions as long as possible.

The Superior Court system last summer implemented once-monthly furlough days, shutting the bulk of the court system in an effort to save $18 million a year. Another furlough day is scheduled for Wednesday.

Officials with the court said up to 1,800 staff positions may be eliminated as it tries to cope with a projected $130 million in coming years.

Some effects which the county will most immediately feel include operator service, which will be eliminated at the Traffic Telephone Call Center. Busy phone lines and longer lines at traffic windows are expected. Of the 19,200 daily calls to the call center, some 10 percent require the assistance of an operator, stated the report from the L.A. Superior Court.

Traffic night court sessions will be reduced from twice to once a month a the Metropolitan Courthouse. The report also stated that further delays are inevitable.

Including Tuesday's layoffs, the total staff reduction since February 2009 is reportedly 42 percent. The time to process requests for files and case reproduction will increase by 50 percent, paid file requests waiting times may increase from four to eight months and no-fee requests may increase from six months to a year. Reproduction waiting time is also expected to double.

"IT'S GOING TO TAKE A MIRACLE TO PREVENT COURTHOUSE CLOSURES ... NOT TO SAY THAT MIRACLES DON'T HAPPEN."

Allan Parachini
Public Information Officer

Additionally, the court will no longer provide financial support and supervising personnel to the Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program, based at the Edward D. Edelman Children's Court. CASA volunteers work on behalf of abused, neglected and abandoned children involved in dependency court matters.

The Los Angeles Superior Court is the nation's largest trial court system, with 600 courtrooms in 50 courthouses throughout the county.

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Sony bets MJ fans won't stop 'til they get enough

LINDA DEUTSCH &
RYAN NAKASHIMA
Associated Press Writers

LOS ANGELES The man who spearheaded the record-breaking deal in which Michael Jackson's estate will get up to $250 million in the next seven years said Tuesday that Sony Music Entertainment bought a treasure trove of new Jackson music, some of it recorded "quite recently," some in collaboration with other artists.

John Branca, who negotiated the deal along with co-executor John McClain and team of attorneys, was clearly elated about the deal. He said in an interview with The Associated Press that this is only the first of more deals that will bring Jackson's music to his fans and introduce it to a world of potential new fans.

"The remarkable thing is to make the biggest deal in history in a market with declining record sales. It's a pretty big thing," Branca said. "It's a testament to Michael's incredible talent and his music. It's really an honor to be part of this."

He added that "there's more to come" but declined to elaborate. He also would not discuss the finances or specific details of the deal.

Branca is the lawyer who met the superstar singer when both were young men and is seen as the architect of Jackson's financial empire. They worked together for 30 years.

He and John McClain, a lifelong Jackson friend and music producer, are co-administrators of the Jackson estate. The estate has benefited from their deal to release the movie, "This is It," compiled from footage of rehearsals for a series of concerts that was in preparation when Jackson died last June at age 50.

Branca said he is convinced that Jackson would be delighted with the results of their negotiations.

"John McClain said it best," Branca said. "He said that Michael probably wouldn't have wanted 'This is It' released because he was such a perfectionist and it was rehearsal footage. But if he had seen that we could get $60 million for his mother and children and it became the biggest concert movie of all time, he would have said, 'Thank you very much.'"

He said he has not heard all of the 60 plus songs discovered by McClain but he said what he has heard is "classic Michael Jackson." Among the songs are two recordings that were never released that he made for charity with other stars. There are also songs he recorded for his famous albums that were never included in the final product.

"Michael had a tendency to over-record," Branca said. "He would record 20, 30, 40 songs for one album. These are the vintage songs."

The recent material was recorded within the last three years. The old and the new are likely to be combined on some of the albums to come, he said.

Among the songs in Jackson's vault is a collaboration with Paul Anka on a song called, "Love Never Felt So Good," which Branca described as "quite good."

Beyond the recorded material, he said Jackson left more songs that he composed but that don't have his voice on them. They would not have the same value, he said.

When he died, Jackson left recorded music including studio sessions from some of his most-popular albums and recently recorded songs made with the likes of Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am.

Branca noted that Jackson did not release a huge number of albums in his lifetime and his last one was nine years ago. He said the legacy of unreleased material is far more than what was left by Elvis Presley. He said Jackson's fan base is also larger, stretching around the globe.

"He is one of the most recognized figures in the world, along with Muhammad Ali," said Branca. He noted that two-thirds of record and movie ticket sales for "This is It" were outside the United States.

Under the deal officially announced Tuesday, Sony has guaranteed Jackson's estate $200 million for 10 projects over the next seven years. If certain conditions are met, the payment could rise to $250 million.

Since Jackson's death, McClain has combed through boxes of tapes and recordings Jackson left behind. McClain and Branca each stand to make 5 cents on every new dollar of revenue brought into the estate.

Even if only half of the 60 songs discovered by McClain are commercially viable, that would be enough for two or three albums. And some songs could also be packaged with already-heard material. That likely wouldn't detract from a new album's value. It might even add to it, because fans have been flocking to known commodities in music.

For example, 14 remastered albums from The Beatles catalog sold 13 million copies worldwide in the four months after they were released last September. Bob Seger's "Greatest Hits," an album that came out in 1994, was the best-selling catalog album of the last decade, with 9 million albums sold to date.

Jackson's own two-disc set that accompanied the concert rehearsal footage in "This Is It" has sold 5 million copies, and it had only one new song. That was the title song, which Jackson wrote with Anka around the time the "Thriller" album was becoming a smash hit.

With the album selling for $10 to $14, the revenue generated from sales is already well beyond the tens of millions of dollars needed to cover the per-project guarantees Sony is promising.

"He always said his children would never have anything to worry about because he had volumes of songs to release," said Raymone Bain, who began representing Jackson during his child molestation trial in 2005, in an interview Tuesday.

Bain, who is also suing the estate for fees, said Jackson told her he had "thousands of recordings" that he wanted to aim at a youthful audience, and spent nights during the trial writing new tunes as therapy.

"He wanted to prove to a new demographic group that he was still a major player in the industry," she said. "That's why he added Akon and Fergie and will.i.am to the 25th anniversary recording of 'Thriller.'"

Releases from well-established artists have other advantages. An older fan base is more accustomed to buying whole albums than are younger fans familiar with free song-swapping online. A long sales history also makes it easier to evaluate what catalogs are worth.

"It's unusual for a deal like that not to make money for a distributor," said Lawrence Kenswil, an entertainment attorney at Loeb & Loeb in Los Angeles and former executive with Universal Music Group. "It's a safer bet than betting on the future of unknown artists."

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Storms mean farmers, cities will get more water

GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO A series of drenching storms have replenished many of California's reservoirs, freeing up more water for parched farms and cities throughout the state, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced Tuesday.

Just in time for planting season, growers in the dry south-western part of the Central Valley will get at least 25 percent of the water they seek each year from federal pipes and canals — an improvement on the 5 percent announced last month.

Some of the nation's most productive farmland south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta have been idled due to three years of drought coupled with federal water restrictions to protect Chinook salmon and other threatened native fish.

The shortages have caused economic distress in the San Joaquin Valley and heightened the policy debate surrounding the foundering delta, the largest estuary on the West Coast that serves as the hub of the state's water system.

"People who are on the ground, who are farming at this point in time need to have certainty," said Salazar, a former rancher and environmental lawyer. "We essentially are dealing with a system that is strained and is in collapse and has no certainty with respect to the water supply."

Despite the rash of storms, state Department of Water Resources officials said they could not boost water supplies for the rural and urban customers who rely on their parallel set of pipes and reservoirs.

Both agencies run the pumps that send water to more than 25 million Californians and the farms that produce half the nation's fruits and vegetables. If the rainfall continues, allocations could go up again provided water levels rise at Lake Oroville, the state's biggest reservoir, state water managers said.

As California officials struggle to craft a long-term solution for the delta, the federal government will accelerate its scheduled water allocation updates so farmers know how much they have on hand to irrigate their crops, Salazar said.

Ex-exec testifies in KB Home fraud trial

JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A former executive of KB Home testified Tuesday against former chairman and Chief Executive Bruce E. Karatz, who is accused of bilking shareholders out of millions of dollars by backdating stock options.

Prosecutors contend that Karatz illegally backdated stock-options. A stock option allows an employee to purchase the company's stock at a preset price at a future date. If the shares are trading above that price, the employee can then sell the shares and pocket the profit. The perk is designed to encourage employee performance that contributes to the company's financial success.

Backdating involves issuing stock options retroactively to coincide with low points in the share price, thus boosting payouts. It can be illegal if it is not properly accounted for and disclosed to investors.

Gary Ray, the former head of human resources for KB Home, testified that Karatz was complicit in a 1999 shift in the company's policy for awarding stock options that its compensation committee did not know about. Under the new policy, Karatz picked favorable dates in the weeks surrounding the committee's vote.

Ray said Karatz dismissed his suggestions that they brief the committee on the new stock option scheme.

"He responded, 'No, we don't need to. We've got the authority to do this," Ray recounted in court.

Ray pleaded guilty last year to conspiracy to obstruct justice and agreed to testify for the prosecution.

Karatz has pleaded not guilty to 20 counts, including mail, wire and securities fraud, lying to the company's accountants and making false statements in reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

He remains free on bond and could face a lengthy prison sentence if convicted of all charges.

He, Karatz and another executive were forced out in 2006 after Los Angeles-based KB discovered that Karatz had benefited from favorably dated option awards between 1998 and 2005.

Karatz agreed to pay some $7 million in September to settle civil charges of backdating stock options but did not admit any wrongdoing.

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NYC restaurants must now show their report cards

SARA KUGLER
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK New York City's 24,000 restaurants — from its internationally known eateries on down to its most modest pizza counters — will have to display large letter grades near their entrances indicating how clean they are under a system approved Tuesday.

The best will get an A, according to the system approved by the city Board of Health.

Officials say the system is designed to give instant information to potential customers.

"The grade in the window will give you a sense of how clean the kitchen is, and it will give every restaurant operator an incentive to maintain safe, sanitary conditions," Health Commissioner Thomas Farley said in a statement.

Some other cities use similar rating systems or are considering them. A bill was introduced last year in Washington D.C. to require them in restaurants, and Los Angeles has been posting public grades in eateries for years.

Los Angeles grades its restaurants with A for scores of 90 to 100 percent, B for 80 to 89 percent and C for 70 to 79 percent. A restaurant that scores under 70 percent twice in a year is subject to closure.

Some restaurant owners and industry officials have called the system gimmicky and unfair.

"They're doing a disservice to the public," said Marc Murphy, a vice president of the New York State Restaurant Association and the owner and chef at the Manhattan restaurants Landmarc and Ditch Plains.

He said the letter grading system will only serve to embarrass restaurateurs without giving the public a true picture of the establishment's cleanliness.

Critics charge that grades could change from week to week, depending on a city inspector's whims, and that even a grade of B could be fatal to some fine dining establishments.

"Two flies can get you cited for a rodent violation," Murphy said. He predicted that the new system "will hurt our reputation as the restaurant capital of the world."

But celebrity chef Tom Colicchio, owner of Craft and other restaurants, said the system was a good idea.

"I think anything that is going to encourage people to clean up their act and protect the public is a good thing overall," he said.

Marianela Rogel, who owns the far lower profile El Rinconcito De Tito in Jackson Heights, Queens, agreed.

"People will be a lot more relaxed," she said at her tidy, five-table eatery, not far from a mop sitting by the front door. "When people come into a restaurant the first thing they notice is whether it's clean."

Dario Franco, owner of the nearby Colombian-style restaurant Cositas Ricas, said he thought his place would get an A.

"It would be great for us. That would give us a higher profile in the community," Franco said. Cleanliness is essential," he added.

New York officials say that after Los Angeles began its letter grading system for restaurants, the proportion of restaurants that met the highest standards rose from 40 percent to more than 80 percent.

The details of New York's system are still being finalized, but the proposal called for grades A through C, based on demerit points accumulated by violations.

"I think you're going to find that most restaurants will get to the A status, which is the idea," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

About a quarter of the city's restaurants have "significant lapses in food-safety practices," according to the health department. Officials say that about 30 percent would qualify for an A, 40 percent a B and 26 percent a C.

New York City's restaurant inspection reports are already posted online, but officials said posting the information in restaurant doors and windows prevents diners from having to search for it.

The plan approved Tuesday gives restaurants that receive grades lower than an A time to improve their sanitary conditions before they have to post anything.

For those eateries, the health department will return within a month to conduct a second inspection, and the second grade will be posted unless the restaurant operator contests it. Restaurants appealing their grades will be allowed to post a "grade pending" sign.

The health board vote was 6-2. One of the two board members who voted against it was Bruce Vladeck, an expert on health care policy and financing.

He called the system "misguided" and "intellectually incoherent," and said restaurants should be graded on a pass-fail basis. Vladeck said he couldn't see the value of saddling a restaurant with a passing grade with the black mark of a "C" ranking, if a different inspection on a different day might have earned them an "A."

The new regulations do not cover the city's mobile food carts.



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Play Time

Cynthia Citron — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ginger and Fred: She followed, he led

IN THE ANNALS OF SHOW BUSINESS, perhaps nothing has prompted more angst in the hearts of directors and studio heads than the phenomenon of the insidious "stage mother." Of these, the most famous — or infamous — examples of the genre were the mothers of Shirley Temple, Gypsy Rose Lee, and Ginger Rogers.

In the musical "Backwards in High Heels" currently having its Los Angeles premiere at the International City Theatre in Long Beach, its creators, Lynnette Barkley and Christopher McGovern, deal forthrightly with this "mother issue." Heather Lee, who plays Ginger's mother Lela, brings warmth and humor to the role, in addition to a glorious singing voice. She also brings an overbearing intrusiveness into Ginger's skyrocketing career and five unsuccessful marriages. Although the headstrong, high-maintenance Ginger is portrayed as no shrinking violet herself.

Anna Aimee White, who plays Ginger, seems a little miscast at the beginning of the show, singing a bit harshly and dancing somewhat modestly, but she blossoms spectacularly as the show progresses, revealing a strong, appealing vocal range and a smooth grace, especially in her dances with the sophisticated Fred Astaire (Matt Bauer).

Bauer, who is excellent, plays a number of roles, including Jack Briggs, a Marine who was Ginger's third husband. (Ginger seemed to have a penchant for Jacks: her first husband, whom she married at 17, was a chorus boy, Jack Culpepper, and her fourth was a French lawyer, Jacques Bergerac, who was 16 years younger than she.) In between, she married actors Lew Ayres and lastly, William Marshall. None of these marriages lasted very long — her first broke up within three weeks — and she spent the last years of her mother's life living with her on their ranch in Oregon.

The title "Backwards in High Heels" comes from a remark that Ginger made about her partnership with Astaire, in which she claimed that she "did everything Fred did, only backwards and in high heels." The two made 10 films together (Ginger made some 73 altogether), and this current musical reprises many of the dances they made famous: "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off," "Shall We Dance," and "Pick Yourself Up." Choreographer Melissa Giattino has done well in reprising many of their classic dance moves and Christopher McGovern, who supplied the book and several new songs, does a masterful job of arranging many of George and Ira Gershwin's classics ("Fascinating Rhythm," "I Got Rhythm," Embraceable You") as well as those of Irving Berlin and other popular composers of the period.

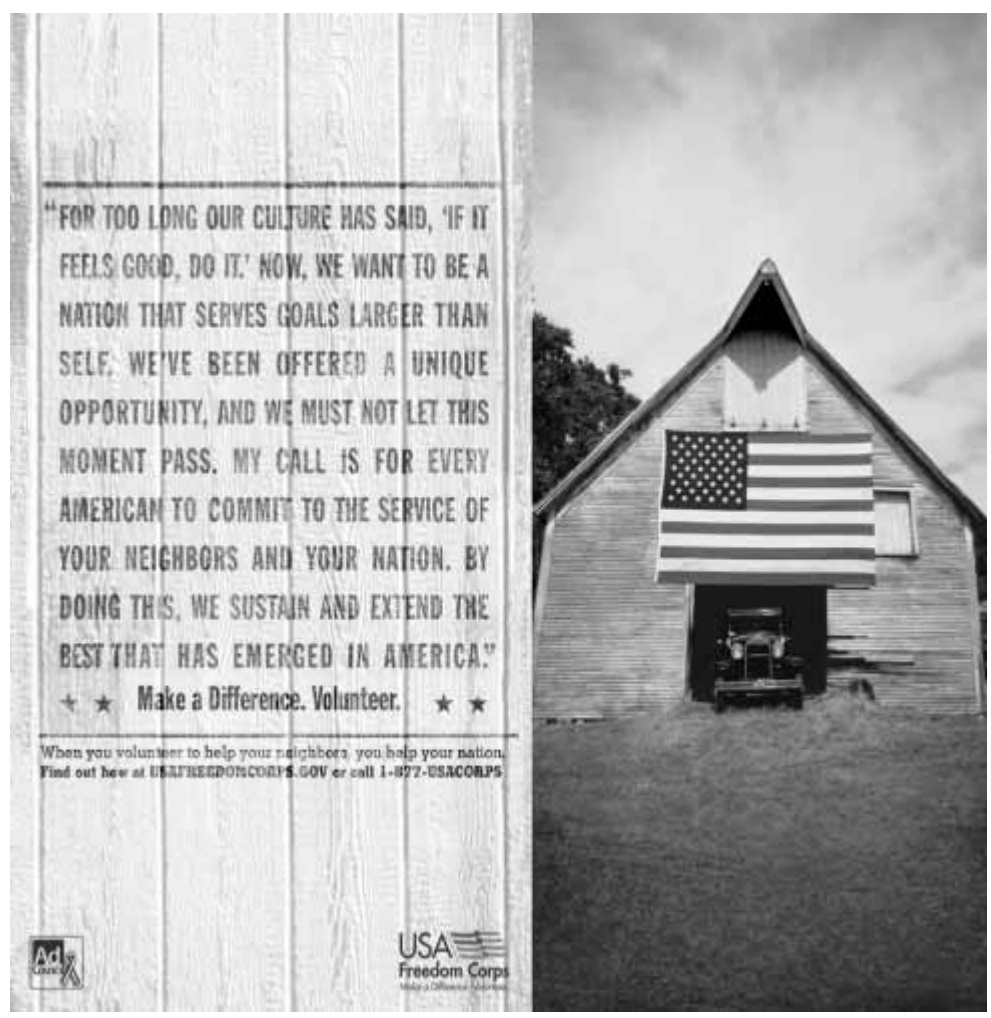
The ensemble cast includes the talented Robin De Lano, who portrays an ear-bending Ethel Merman, and Bette Davis, Katharine Hepburn, and Marlene Dietrich, and Jeff Payton, who does an affable "Gee whiz!" Jimmy Stewart, among others. And finally, there is Christopher Carothers, who plays a number of small parts with such a strong presence that you wish there were more of him.

Director caryn desai keeps things moving, and Stephen Gifford gives the ensemble an art nouveau thrust stage to work on. But costume designer Kim DeShazo has provided Ginger with several outfits that are not only ill-fitting, but downright ugly. The men are costumed well, though. How wrong can you go in black tie and tails?

"Backwards in High Heels" has no great plot or momentum, but if you happen to be in the vicinity of Long Beach you might want to give this slight, modestly entertaining diversion a whirl.

"Backwards in High Heels" will continue at the International City Theatre of the Long Beach Performing Arts Center, 300 East Ocean Blvd. in Long Beach, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through March 21. Call (562) 436-4610 for reservations.

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St. Monica Catholic High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
COED TRACK				
Mar 17	Var	CSHM	St. Paul	3:15pm
BOYS BASEBALL				
Mar 17	Var	New Roads	Marine Park	3pm
Mar 19	JV	Don Bosco	Don Bosco	3:15pm
Mar 19	Var	Don Bosco	Marine Park	3pm
Mar 23	JV	St. Bernard	Marine Park	3pm
Mar 23	Var	St. Bernard	St. Bernard	3:15pm
BOYS GOLF				
Mar 22	Var	Practice	Penmar	4pm
Mar 23	Var	Practice	Rancho	4pm
COED TENNIS				
Mar 17	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm
Mar 18	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm
Mar 19	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm
Mar 22	Var	Practice	Reed Park	3pm
Mar 23	Var	BMHS	BMHS	3pm
BOYS VOLLEYBALL				
Mar 18	JV/Var	St. Bernard	SMCHS	5/6pm
LADY SOFTBALL				
Mar 18	JV/Var	La Salle	La Salle	3:15/3:15
Mar 23	Var	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	3:15pm
Mar 23	JV	Beverly Hills	Memorial Park	3pm

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
BOYS BASEBALL				
Mar 17	Var	Mira Costa		3pm
Mar 20	Var	Redondo Tournament	Westlake Village	11am
BOYS GOLF				
Mar 15	Var	Saugas	Brentwood	2:30pm
Mar 18	Var	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	2:30pm
GIRLS SOFTBALL				
Mar 16	Var	Downey		3:15pm
Mar 19	Var	High Desert Classic-Lancaster		TBA
Mar 20	Var	High Desert Classic-Lancaster		TBA
BOYS TENNIS				
Mar 16	JV	Mira Costa		3pm
Mar 16	Var	Mira Costa		3pm
Mar 18	Var	Valencia		2:30pm
BOYS TRACK				
Mar 18	All	Inglewood		2:45pm
GIRLS TRACK				
Mar 18	All	Inglewood		2:45pm
BOYS SWIMMING				
Mar 16	Var	North Torrance HS		3pm
Mar 18	Var	Torrance		3pm
Mar 18	Var	Torrance		3pm
GIRLS SWIMMING				
Mar 16	All	North Torrance		3pm
Mar 18	All	Torrance		3pm
COED SWIMMING				
Mar 18	Var	Torrance		3pm
BOYS VOLLEYBALL				
Mar 18	Var	El Segundo		3:15pm
COED WRESTLING				
Mar 19	Var	CIF Individuals		TBA
COED BASKETBALL				
Mar 20	Var	CIF REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP		TBA

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MLB

Davis remembered during tribute

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Former Los Angeles Dodgers center fielder Willie Davis was remembered as an electrifying on-field presence and a larger-than-life personality in a memorial service Tuesday at Dodger Stadium.

"I like to believe the president saw the news and felt a little sadness," his daughter, Kim, said in an hour-long service, "as did the mailman, the man at the doughnut shop, the drug addict downtown, and the 45-year-old who remembers the lightning speed of the 3 Dog."

Davis, 69, spent 14 of his 18 major-league seasons with the Dodgers, and was nicknamed "3 Dog" because of his greyhound-like speed, or his love of the dog track in spring training, depending on the telling.

He was part of two championship teams, won three Gold Gloves and remains the franchise leader in hits (2,091), extra-base hits (585), at-bats (7,495), runs (1,004), triples (110) and total bases (3,094). He was found dead in his Burbank home on March 9.

His service brought together several generations of former Dodgers, including current owner Frank McCourt and former owner Peter O'Malley. Former players in attendance included Maury Wills, Tommy Davis, Lou Johnson, Al Downing, Bill Russell, Ken Landreaux, Ron Cey, Reggie Smith and Lee Lacy.

Tommy Davis — who was Willie Davis' roommate on the road and neighbor at home — recalled first meeting his friend during a 60-yard dash staged in spring training.

With wife at side, Beckham on feet after ankle surgery

MARIUS TURULA
Associated Press Writer

TURKU, Finland With his celebrity wife at his side, David Beckham was back on his feet and walking on crutches Tuesday after surgery to repair the torn Achilles' tendon that will sideline him for about six months.

The 34-year-old former England captain "feels fine and is happy" as he recuperates from Monday's operation at a private clinic in Finland, his surgeon told The Associated Press. He added that Beckham would stay at the clinic until Wednesday.

"He does not have much pain and has started walking today and gradually done it more and more," Dr. Sakari Orava said.

Beckham was injured in the closing minutes of AC Milan's 1-0 win over Chievo Verona on Sunday. He was on his second loan to the Italian club from Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Galaxy.

"I'm feeling positive and now concentrating on getting back to full fitness over the coming months," Beckham said in a statement Tuesday.

Orava said Beckham's left Achilles' tendon was totally torn, ruling out his hopes of playing in his fourth World Cup. The tournament starts June 11 in South Africa.

"It is hard to tell, but in general I can say that after an Achilles' tendon tear, a total rupture, people usually are back in sports within half a year," Orava said.

AC Milan said Beckham would begin rehabilitation right away. He is not to put weight on his injured foot for two weeks and can undergo physical therapy in a pool after six weeks.

"The plan includes a complete recovery in six months, at the end of which he can play again," the club said in a statement.

Beckham's wife, Victoria Beckham, formerly known as "Posh Spice" of the Spice Girls, arrived by private jet Tuesday afternoon at a snowy Turku airport. She was taken to the clinic in a van with tinted windows.

Wearing a short black dress, sunglasses and no coat, she was met by dozens of screaming fans and photographers in the parking hall of the shopping mall. A policewoman and a security officer escorted her out of the car, fending off the pushing crowd as she hurriedly made her way to the elevator.

David Beckham is under contract to AC Milan until June 30.

"So all the eventual contractual obligations will continue to apply," Milan organizing director Umberto Gandini told the AP. "After June 30, he will become a Los Angeles Galaxy player again. From the contractual point of view, absolutely nothing changes. The fact that he was injured doesn't change affect his contract."

Milan physicians followed Beckham to Finland and will also coordinate the first steps of rehabilitation.

"Until June 30 his rehab will be arranged in accordance with Milan and the Los Angeles Galaxy," Gandini said, adding that Milan could send one of its trainers to Los Angeles if Beckham chooses to return to California.

The injury shattered Beckham's hopes of becoming the first English player to appear in four World Cups and put his future on the national team in doubt. He will miss most of the MLS season.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown sent a get-well message to Beckham and praised his role as a soccer ambassador.

"He emphasized what a tremendous ambassador Mr. Beckham is for English soccer and wishes him well in his recovery, as I think the whole nation does," Brown spokesman Simon Lewis said.



Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

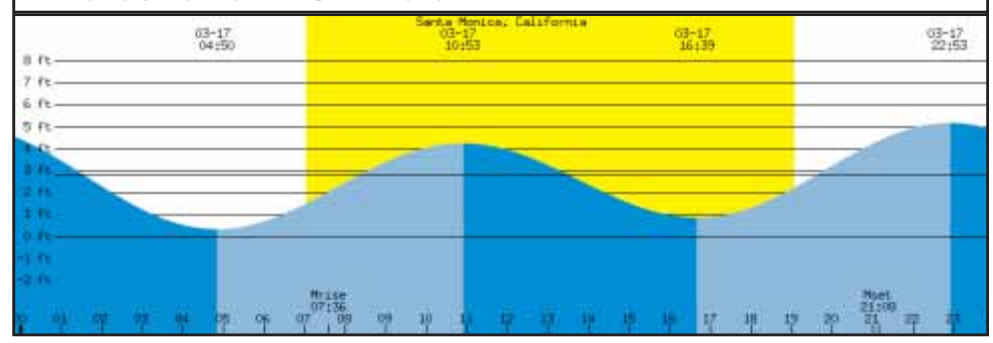
Swell Forecast

Should see surf running head high to slightly overhead from 290-300°. South facing breaks are looking at chest high wrap from this.

Long Range Synopsis

This NW'er should back off to around chest high or so.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **March 9, 2010**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 17
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 32
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 11

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; simplehuman; SIMA

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	ns	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	C
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	D
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	C
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	C	A
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	B
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	D
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	B
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	B
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	C	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	D

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card℠ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

The Sugarland Express (PG) 1hr 49min
Jaws (PG) 2hrs 4min
7:30

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Our Family Wedding (PG-13) 1hr 30min
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

Valentine's Day (PG-13) 1hr 57min
1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40

Shutter Island (R) 2hrs 18min
2:40, 6:00, 9:15

Dear John (PG-13) 1hr 48min
2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Alice in Wonderland (in Disney Digital 3D) (PG) 1hr 49min
2:10, 3:15, 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:05

Cop Out (R) 1hr 50min
1:30, 4:05, 6:35, 9:10

Shutter Island (R) 2hrs 18min
2:15, 5:30, 8:30

She's Out of My League - Digital Presentation (R) 1hr 44min
3:30, 6:15, 9:15

She's Out of My League (R) 1hr 44min
2:00, 4:30, 7:15

The Crazies (R) 1hr 41min
1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

The Yellow Handkerchief (PG-13) 1hr 57min
1:50, 7:30

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hrs 26min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
4:40, 10:00

Crazy Heart (R) 2hrs 07min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

The Ghost Writer (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Green Zone (R) 1hr 55min
12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:45

Remember Me (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 40min
1:00, 4:30, 8:15

Brooklyn's Finest (R) 2hrs 13min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:20

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Think Irish, Sagittarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Some people feel more Irish than others. Some signs feel more Irish than others. This year, many Aries will feel greener than they have in many years. Loosen up and enjoy the moment. Communication flourishes. Tonight: Romance flourishes, too!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You just might not feel up to snuff. Others want you to join in, whether it is business or personal. You simply aren't in the mood and could cause a situation without trying to. Knowing when enough is enough is important. Tonight: Vanish if you want.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You can be found in meetings, talking to friends, associates or bosses, but most certainly not alone. You could be surprised by everything that occurs and opens up. A conversation demonstrates that you are on the same page as someone else. Tonight: Painting the town green.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ As usual, you seem to be the one who is left holding the bag. You discover an awful lot about someone you care about. Know when to say "enough." Your sense of humor emerges, and you become far more caring. Tonight: On top of your game.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You have more zip than many signs. Even in the face of another's issues and uproar, you are able to remain grounded and look forward. Look at a situation from a different point of view. Keep listening to another person, but do your own thing. Tonight: Let your imagination play out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Deal with others directly. You might want to understand what motivates a key person. Your instincts are right in line, as you'll discover. Don't fill in the blanks. That way, you will learn more about what motivates others. Tonight: Hook up with a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Don't allow anyone else's mood to color your day. Stay on top of your game, knowing full well which way to go. Realize what is happening behind the scenes. Someone finally opens up. Tonight: Defer to another's suggestion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Focus on getting a project done. In some manner, you will feel very responsible for others. Relax more, but complete as much as you can. Others count on your sense of organization. You are on top of your game. Tonight: Easy works.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Funnel your ingenuity where it counts. Look at what happens otherwise. Situations could unravel. You are on top of your game, whether you realize it or not. If you follow your instincts once you are focused, you'll succeed. Tonight: Think Irish.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Do whatever you need to do to make yourself more comfortable at work. You simply might close the door or add a new plant. Others might want to work from home. Do what you must. Staying so tightly wound could be difficult. Tonight: Close to home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Keep talking and share with others. Look at what comes down your path. In fact, surprises walk hand in hand with you right now. Keep smiling, even if a partner is a bit caustic. A soft style goes a long way. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Be aware of how much you have to offer. Understanding will evolve to a new level if you do a lot of listening. You could be surprised by what occurs between you and another person if you indulge this person. Stay on top of what is going on. Tonight: Your treat.

Happy birthday

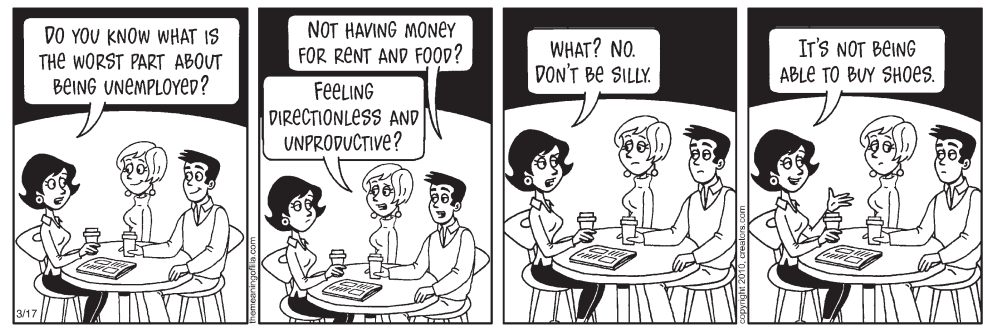
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year, you have a lot to offer. A new luck cycle begins. You want to christen it well. Re-evaluate your goals and long-term desires. You will continue to do the unexpected. Listen to others' feedback. If you are single, you'll have many opportunities to meet "the one." Stretch and grow with this person. If you are attached, the two of you will be able to connect on a deeper level. ARIES often makes you smile.

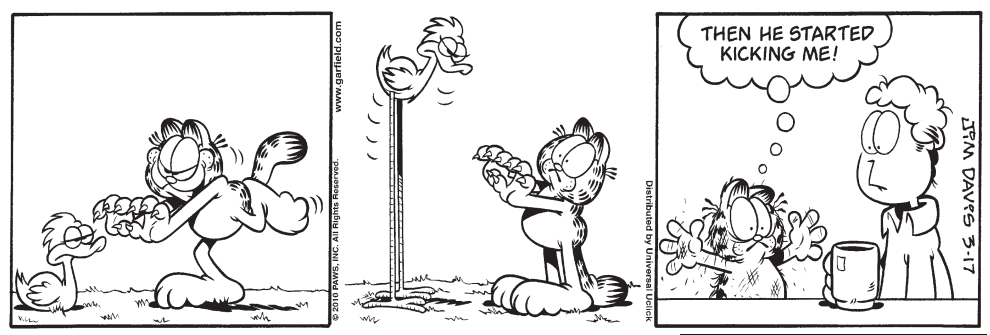
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



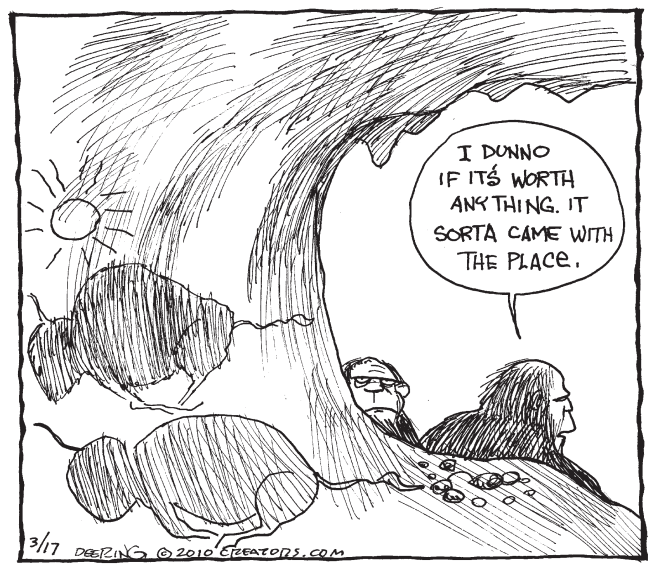
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

	7	9				1	6	
5			1		4			7
4			7					9
1			5					8
	3	2				5	9	
7			9					3
2			8					6
9			2		1			5
	1	7				8	4	

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

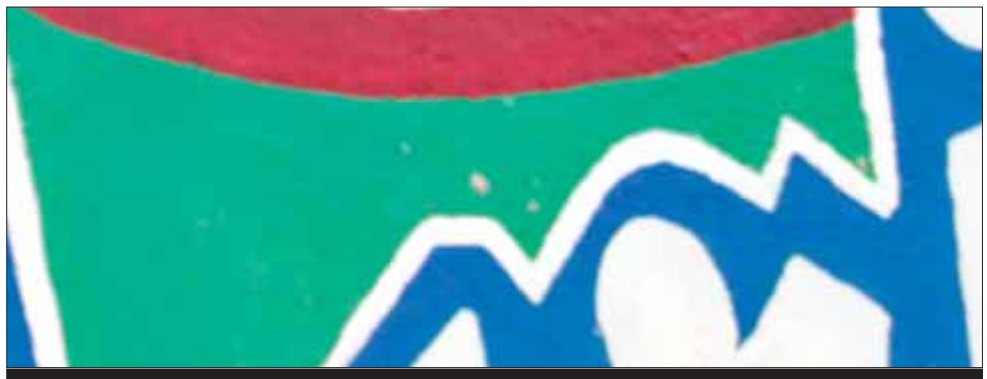
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

8	5	7	6	4	3	2	9	1
3	1	4	9	5	2	7	8	6
6	9	2	8	7	1	4	3	5
9	4	5	1	3	7	6	2	8
7	8	3	5	2	6	1	4	9
1	2	6	4	9	8	5	7	3
5	3	9	7	6	4	8	1	2
2	7	8	3	1	5	9	6	4
4	6	1	2	8	9	3	5	7

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 The Emerald Isle
5 City of 1-Across
11 Additional
12 Each
13 Hotel worker
14 Serving need
15 TV spots
16 Bears' lairs
17 Store up
19 Hot blood
22 Fog enshrouded
24 Aerosol output
26 Opposed
27 Green shade
28 Printer's need
30 Graph points
31 Make clothes
32 Rein for Rover
34 Broker's advice
35 Do a checkout job
38 Broke
41 Jupiter's wife
42 Niche
43 Singing voice
44 Province of 1-Across
45 Secluded valley

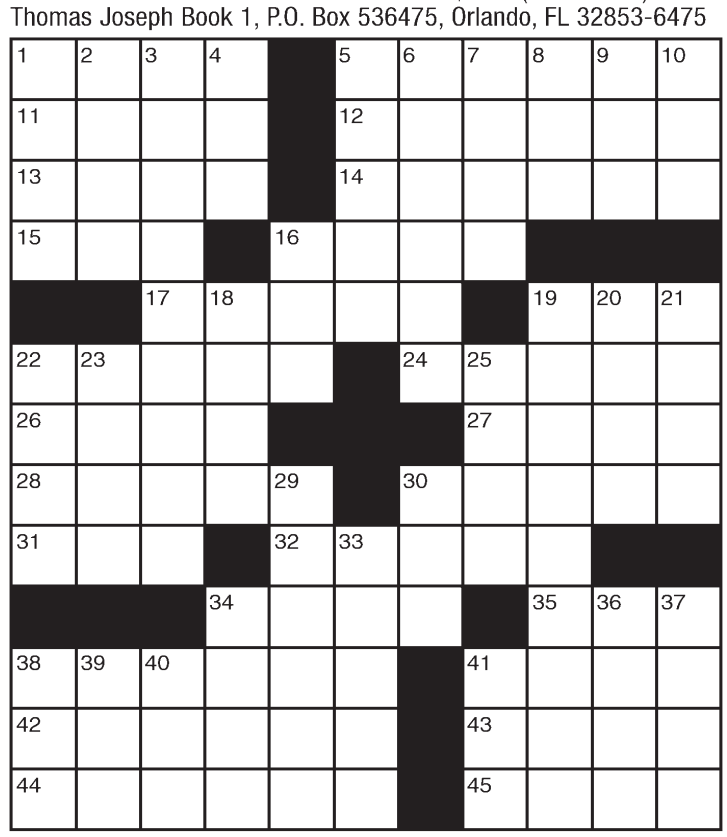
DOWN

1 Jane Austen book
2 Map line
3 Mutton dish
4 "Waking — Devine"
5 Library stamp
6 Tips
7 Slant
8 Guitarist Paul
9 Bar need
10 Court divider
16 Calendar box
18 Singer Redding
19 Incongruous statement
20 Freeway exit
21 Potato parts
22 Atlas pages
23 Concerning
25 Asset
29 Jacket part
30 "East of Eden" brother
33 Church official
34 Location
36 Pay to play
37 Ruffian
38 Letter after sigma
39 Maximum amount
40 Machines with RAM
41 Bender

C	R	A	G	■	■	A	D	R	O	P
L	I	N	E	R	■	C	R	A	N	E
A	S	G	O	O	D	A	S	N	E	W
S	E	E	■	B	E	D	■	S	I	T
P	U	L	L	I	N	■	M	O	D	E
■	P	A	I	N	T	■	O	M	A	R
■	■	■	A	S	I	A	N	■	■	■
A	F	A	R	■	S	N	E	E	R	■
T	I	N	S	■	T	I	T	L	E	S
L	E	D	■	A	R	M	■	A	F	T
A	S	E	A	S	Y	A	S	P	I	E
S	T	A	R	K	■	L	I	S	L	E
T	A	N	K	S	■	■	N	E	L	L

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



3-17

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 2 15 25 48 53 Meganumber: 41 Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 9 15 20 24 43 Meganumber: 2 Jackpot: $24M

Fantasy 5: 3 7 19 22 35

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 8 0 EVENING: 0 9 4

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 11 Money Bags 2nd: 03 Hot Shot 3rd: 09 Winning Spirit RACE TIME: 1:45.18

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Anthropomorphizing Little Muffy: (1) A February St. Petersburg Times report found several local people who regularly cook gourmet meals for their dogs and who revealed their dogs' (or maybe just "their") favorite recipes. "Veggie Cookies for Dogs," for example, requires whole-wheat flour, dried basil, dried cilantro, dried oregano, chopped carrot, green beans, tomato paste, canola oil and garlic. Asked one chef: Why feed "man's best friend" what you wouldn't eat yourself? (2) A day spa for dogs ("Wag Style") in Tokyo offers sessions in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber, supposedly easing doggy arthritis, healing wounds and halting aging. (Some racehorse owners are certain that the chambers help with equine muscle and joint problems, but an academic researcher told a BoingBoing.net writer that evidence of benefit is "anecdotal.")

■ At first, Rev. Fred Armfield's arrest for patronizing a prostitute in Greenwood, S.C., in January looked uncontroversial, with Armfield allegedly confessing that he had bargained Melinda "Truck Stop" Robinson down from $10 to $5 for oral sex. Several days later, however, Armfield formally disputed the arrest, calling himself a "descendant of the original Moro-Pithecus Disoch, Kenyapithecus and Afro Pithecus," a "living flesh and blood being with sovereign status," and someone who, based on his character and community standing, should not be prosecuted. Also, he claimed that any payment to "Truck Stop" with Federal Reserve Notes did not legally constitute a purchase since such notes are not lawful money.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1988 A Colombian Boeing 727 jetliner, Avianca Flight 410, crashes into a mountainside near the Venezuelan border killing 143.

1988 Eritrean War of Independence: The Nadew Command, an Ethiopian army corps in Eritrea, is attacked on three sides by military units of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front in the opening action of the Battle of Afabet.

WORD UP!

hirsute
\HUR-soot; HIR-soot; hur-SOOT; hir-SOOT\ , adjective;
1. Covered with hair; set with bristles; shaggy; hairy.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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1248 11TH st.unit A 2bdrm/1 1/2bath, lower carpet stove, blinds, laundry, vinyl flooring, balcony parking, no pets.on site manager $1540.(310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

12746 Pacific Ave. unit 6 1+1 stove, fridge, dishwasher, wall ac, carpet, blinds, laundry,intercom entry, parking, no pets. $1175.move-in special $500 off (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

3206 BAGLEY AVE. 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, dishwasher, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets. $1050 $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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2331 20th St, #4
1+1, remodeled, pkng $1400
401 Washington, #303
1+1, st, dw, cpt $1400
2342-A 20th Street
2+1, st,cpt, pkg $1800

WEST HOLLYWOOD
8206-C DeLongpre
1+1, st $1100

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BACH, st, fr, ln, $750
1800 Kelton Ave, #1,5,7
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11321 Massachusetts, #9
1+1, st, fr, pkg $1050
1920 Manning Ave, #6
TWO WEEKS FREE RENT
2+1.75, st, fr, hdwd $1425
1766 Malcolm Ave
TWO WEEKS FREE RENT
2+1, st, fr,cpt, pkg,ln $1425
11757 Kiowa, #4 & #7
2+1.75, st, dw, pkg, ln $1800
2814 Westwood
4+2, st, fr, d/w,cpt,w/d,2 car garage, fenced bkyd $3000

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st (stove), fr (fridge), cpt (carpet), sgl (single), bach (bachelor), ln (laundry), gar (garage), hdwd (hardwood floors), lwr (lower), upr (upper) , htpl (hotplate), pkg (parking), w/d (washer/dryer), hu (hook-up), d/w (dishwasher), c-fn (ceiling fan), fp (fireplace)

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MARVISTA-LA $1495.00 2bdrms, 2 baths, no pets, stove, refrig, dshwshr, washr/dryr, parking 12048 Culver Blvd. #207 Open daily 8am-7pm. Additional info in unit

MARVISTA-LA $1995.00 3bdrms, 1-3/4 baths, + Den, no pets, stove, refrig, dshwshr, parking. 12058 Culver Blvd. #Upper Unit Open daily 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit

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North of Montana	$3,200,000	$1,147,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,995,000	$850,000
South of Wilshire	$979,000	$645,500
Sunset Park	$1, 099,000	$595,000
Ocean Park	$1,498,000	$667,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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